

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01371 230730Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

-----101235 230732Z /13

R 211521Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6446

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF

SUBJ: NEW ELECTION CALL - NAT SENATOR REFERS TO POSSIBLE
CABINET CHANGES

1. IN SPEECH TO CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB SEPT 21 ON SAG'S
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL PLAN (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL)
NATIONAL PARTY SENATOR DENNIS WORRALL, GENERALLY REGARDED
AS ONE OF MAJOR ARCHITECTS OF NEW SCHEME, MADE OFF-THE-
RECORD COMMENT THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE PRIME
MINISTER HAS CALLED NEW ELECTIONS "MIGHT BE TO INTRODUCE
NEW BLOOD INTO THE CABINET." REMARK WAS UNSOLICITED
AND WAS MADE IN COURSE OF REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT
POWERS OF STATE PRESIDENT UNDER NEW SCHEME TO
APPOINT AND DISMISS MINISTERS. CONTEXT WAS SUCH THAT
ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN WAS THAT WORRALL, AT
LEAST, DOES ANTICIPATE CABINET CHANGES. IN CHAT DURING
LUNCH, CAPE TOWN'S JOURNALISTS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE
SKEPTICISM THAT VORSTER MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING CABINET
CHANGES.

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2. INITIAL REACTION OF JOURNALISTS HERE TO EARLY
ELECTION CALL IS THAT NATS BOUND TO PICK UP A FEW EXTRA
SEATS AND COULD GAIN AS MANY AS TEN. THEY AGREED
THAT VORSTER'S APPEAL TO ELECTORATE TO HELP HIM
RESIST "FOREIGN MEDDLING" IN SA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS
EMOTIONALLY VERY POTENT AND DIFFICULT FOR OPPOSITION
PARTIES TO COUNTER - OTHER THAN TO SAY "ME TOO."

3. IN ANOTHER MOVE OF SOME INTEREST, LABOR PARTY
LEADER SONNY LEON HAS GIVEN NOTICE THAT PARTY WILL
TABLE MOTION IN CRC ASKING PRESIDENT TO DISSOLVE
CRC AND HOLD NEW ELECTION FOR COLOREDS ON NOVEMBER 30.
SAG REACTION UNKNOWN TO DATE BUT IT ALMOST CERTAINLY
WILL REJECT THE IDEA SINCE ELECTION NOW WOULD ALMOST
CERTAINLY RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE GAIN IN SEATS FOR LABOR
AND DASH SAG'S HOPES TO GET FAVORABLE MAJORITY IN
CURRENT CRC FOR NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS.WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Transfer Date:
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